

**International
Communication
Agency**

United States of America

Washington, D. C. 20547

81-2681/1



[Handwritten signature]

NOTE TO RECIPIENTS OF "SOVIET PROPAGANDA ALERT"

The President has directed the U.S. International Communication Agency to take responsibility for coordination of a major new U.S. overseas information program called PROJECT TRUTH. Through this effort, we will seek to counter Soviet disinformation practices and spread the truth about U.S. policy and objectives.

This Agency's role in disseminating the Department of Defense report, "Soviet Military Power," including the satellite broadcast of Secretary of Defense Weinberger's introductory press conference, was the opening salvo of PROJECT TRUTH. In addition, we have this month initiated a publication designed for U.S. policy makers and overseas distribution entitled "Soviet Propaganda Alert," which explains Soviet propaganda techniques and themes. A copy of the first issue of this publication is enclosed.

USICA will also be preparing materials for a news and feature service, "Dateline USA." This service will offer the facts about the best in America, the achievements of its people, the strengths of its culture and society. With "Dateline USA," we seek to help define foreign public opinion about the United States, thus countering Soviet propaganda.

We are planning a number of other PROJECT TRUTH activities, and I will keep you informed about them.

[Handwritten signature of John Hughes]

John Hughes
Associate Director
(Programs)

State Dept. review completed

Soviet Propaganda Alert

No. 1

October 15, 1981

Re: Project Truth

In addition to the efforts underway of a complementary nature, this is the first in a monthly series of reports on Soviet external propaganda. The reports will be based on evaluations of cable reporting, primary source material, and secondary sources such as Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) publications. Because this report is the first, it contains more general and introductory material than will be included in updates.

Presented in this report are:

- o An overview of Soviet propaganda principles and techniques.
- o A list of major political-military propaganda themes and societal comparisons drawn between the U.S. and the USSR. Selected regional and country propaganda themes are also provided.
- o A case study of a Soviet propaganda campaign currently in progress: the anti-neutron weapon (ERW) campaign.

While the focus is on Soviet external propaganda, most of the themes are echoed in the domestic media. Thus, Soviet citizens do not in general get different messages than do foreign audiences.

Office of Research
International Communication Agency
Washington, D.C.